



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds National
Monument

Lava Beds National
Monument
1 Indian Well Headquarters
Tulelake, CA 96134

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

October 17, 2016

For Immediate Release

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Lava Beds National Monument Plans Prescribed Fire

Lava Beds National Monument plans to implement the Skull Cave South prescribed fire between October and December if conditions become favorable. The 200 acre unit is primarily sagebrush steppe and was last treated in 1986. This prescribed fire mimics the 20 to 70 year cycle of naturally occurring fire.

The unit is located to the south of the Skull Cave Road, east of the main monument road, north of the Bunchgrass Trail, and west of the Missing Link Trail. For public safety, there will be temporary closures during implementation to the Skull Cave Road and adjacent trails. Visitors can expect visible smoke and possibly additional temporary road closures or delays.

As with every prescribed fire, the Skull Cave South prescribed fire will be ignited only when sufficient firefighting resources are in place and weather conditions are favorable to contain the treatment within designated areas and smoke dispersion is favorable.

Fire Management Officer Chris Orr stated, "Carefully using fire as a tool helps decrease risks to life, property and resources and helps perpetuate resource values for which Lava Beds National Monument was established." He further adds, "During all of these operations public and firefighter safety is the number one consideration in everything we do."

For additional information, call Lava Beds' Fire Management Officer at 530-667-8122.

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